

There has been much speculation on the impact of the Massachusetts Senate election on health care reform in Congress. Only time will tell how the political calculus has changed, but our goal remains unchanged: comprehensive, affordable health care for every American.

The bill the House passed last fall remains the best proposal. I will continue to support that legislation. The interests of my constituents and the country demand that I will be flexible, but there should be no stampede to pass flawed legislation.

As we look for a new legislative path for comprehensive reform, I hope the House will consider, pass, and send to the Senate individual provisions that are supported by the American people. Three examples are: repeal of anti-trust exemptions for health insurers, end-of-life support for seniors, and Medicare pilot programs, such as accountable care organizations which will improve our health systems. Having members of the House and Senate take a stand on simple but important provisions will build momentum while clarifying where people stand and identifying areas of agreement.

We have come too far, and making sure every American has access to quality, affordable health care is too important not to do everything we can to make reform a reality.